

St. Mary's Education Commission Minutes, 2-20-2016

1. Attendance:  
Present: Samantha Guerra, Mary Davis, Meghan Schuler, Tom Wietchy, Denis Naeger, and Suzie Phillips.  
Absent: Peggy Casing, Kim Boismier, Jennifer Neill, and Clem Valot
2. Chairperson Samantha Guerra began the meeting. She noted that Peggy was gone today. Tom mentioned that Peggy left some notes connected to her role as Director of Religious Education They are:
  - a. The Program has increased registration fees for GIFT and MSP by about \$15.00, which will translate to about \$6,000.00 in additional income this/next year. This increase puts our dollar numbers more in line with other programs in our area.
  - b. Registration for VBS, GIFT, and MSP has begun. Incentives (cheaper fees) have been added to encourage registration before August 15<sup>th</sup> for both GIFT and MSP.
  - c. Peggy is starting a new bible study on Wednesday mornings (10 AM- 11:30 AM). It's called "A Biblical Walk Through the Mass."
  - d. St. Mary's will have a total of 15 individuals celebrating sacraments at the Easter Vigil. Three adults and three children will be baptized. Three individuals will make a profession of faith. All ten adults will be Confirmed. Seven adults and two children will receive Eucharist for the first time. As you can tell, getting everyone organized is going to be a trip.
3. Samantha then went on to clarify that she is staying on as the Education Commission Chairperson and will be our Representative to the St. Mary's Parish Council. Mary Davis will stay as the SMYG representative if no one else from SMYG will do it. Mary mentioned that SMYG graduates will attend Agape's May meeting to welcome them as future Young Adults. Denis is leaving the Education Commission and moving on to a new phase of his life, although, as we see later on in the minutes, he will be active in other phases of his ministry.
4. Our group commented on how well Samantha, Mary, and Meghan did in their Social Media Presentation in the Chapel this morning. In general there are five different ways that information from St. Mary's can be disseminated to our Parishioners: the Overhead Projector before Mass; submitting articles to the Sunday Bulletin; and posting them on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. According to Samantha, both Facebook and Twitter are similar. Instagram is a more of an of-the-moment way of letting people know about an event. In answering Tom's question about how she prioritizes her Social

Media, Samantha said that often she shuts off those when she has to concentrate and does not want to be bothered.

5. Denis then shared some activities that he will be involved in the next year. Denis will have his next Spring Film Festival next March to run every Tuesday evening. He also shared that there will be the Third Annual "Romantic Evening for Two" which will run on Saturday, the week before Valentine's Day. The date was set up so as not to conflict with Valentine's Day since Denis thought the closeness to Valentine's Day this year might have led to a smaller attendance this year. Denis then mentioned that he will continue his Wednesday counseling for St. Mary's parishioners on an "as need" basis for free. In addition he will continue to do his "Diamonds From Denis" article which highlights his counseling work. Tom thought both Denis' counseling and the grief counseling run by another parishioner are very important services for parishioners and should continue.
6. The focus changed when someone brought up at a recent Vicariate Meeting there was a presentation about "Active Shooter Training" at that Vicariate meeting and the question was if that training would be passed along to different groups at the Parish level. It was reiterated that ideas like these need to be disseminated via the social media network already talked about earlier during our meeting. It was suggested that Samantha make a presentation of her earlier Social Media presentation at the end of Mass during the Saturday-Sunday weekend service. Father Stan came in and agreed that would be a good idea and welcomed Samantha to make arrangements to do that.
7. Suzie Phillips mentioned that she was continuing as the St. Mary representative to the Pontiac Vicariate. She continued to stress that there are many different ways to pass along information to the St. Mary's parishioners and as ways to advertise: the Bulletin; the TV in the Narthex; the messages posted before Mass; the St. Mary's website, and the various forms of Social Media mentioned earlier by Samantha Guerra. Mention was made that the link for information to the website is the way to have Chris Drullin post that information on the various Social Media sites. Members of the Social Media Committee are: Father Stan, Chris Drullin, Chris Kozlowski, Judy Rhodes, and Dan Greig.
8. The Meeting adjourned at 9:40M since the Parish Council Meeting was scheduled to begin soon.